

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being independent. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. In view of the following remarks, all of the claims should be allowed.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for containing a misspelling at paragraph 0041. It is respectfully noted that the specification recites "a time lag" as opposed to "a time leg".

Accordingly, this basis for objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-22 are rejected for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 22 is also rejected for allegedly being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In order to expedite the allowance of the current application, the objected language in claims 1 and 15 has been deleted. In addition, the features of claim 22 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 15 and such features have been clarified to recite "data flow integration paths" (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 17) in order to avoid any confusion about the type of integration paths being recited.

With regard to the objection to the term "first service quality" and "second service quality", it is respectfully submitted that the skilled artisan would recognize that service

quality refers to characteristics for the service which can be used to differentiate such services.

For example, see the following which defines quality of service for web services

(from: <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/library/ws-quality.html>):

“Web service QoS requirements

The major requirements for supporting QoS in Web services are as follows:

- **Availability:** Availability is the quality aspect of whether the Web service is present or ready for immediate use. Availability represents the probability that a service is available. Larger values represent that the service is always ready to use while smaller values indicate unpredictability of whether the service will be available at a particular time. Also associated with availability is time-to-repair (TTR). *TTR* represents the time it takes to repair a service that has failed. Ideally smaller values of TTR are desirable.
- **Accessibility:** Accessibility is the quality aspect of a service that represents the degree it is capable of serving a Web service request. It may be expressed as a probability measure denoting the success rate or chance of a successful service instantiation at a point in time. There could be situations when a Web service is available but not accessible. High accessibility of Web services can be achieved by building highly scalable systems. *Scalability* refers to the ability to consistently serve the requests despite variations in the volume of requests.
- **Integrity:** Integrity is the quality aspect of how the Web service maintains the correctness of the interaction in respect to the source. Proper execution of Web service transactions will provide the correctness of interaction. A *transaction* refers to a sequence of activities to be treated as a single unit of work. All the activities have to be completed to make the transaction successful. When a transaction does not complete, all the changes made are rolled back.
- **Performance:** Performance is the quality aspect of Web service, which is measured in terms of throughput and latency. Higher throughput and lower latency values represent good performance of a Web service. *Throughput* represents the number of Web service requests served at a given time period. *Latency* is the round-trip time between sending a request and receiving the response.
- **Reliability:** Reliability is the quality aspect of a Web service that represents the degree of being capable of maintaining the service and service quality. The number of failures per month or year represents a measure of reliability of a Web service. In another sense, reliability refers to the assured and ordered delivery for messages being sent and received by service requestors and service providers.
- **Regulatory:** Regulatory is the quality aspect of the Web service in conformance with the rules, the law, compliance with standards, and the established service level agreement. Web services use a lot of standards such as SOAP, UDDI, and WSDL. Strict adherence to correct versions of standards (for example, SOAP version 1.2) by service providers is necessary for proper invocation of Web services by service requestors.
- **Security:** Security is the quality aspect of the Web service of providing confidentiality and non-repudiation by authenticating the parties involved, encrypting messages, and providing access control. Security has added importance because Web service invocation occurs over the public Internet. The service provider can have different approaches and levels of providing security depending on the service requestor. "

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 USC § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-21 and 23 are rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0208460 issued to Srikant et al. ("Srikant") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,604,110 issued to Savage et al. ("Savage"). These rejections are traversed.

In order to expedite the allowance of the current application, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include features from claim 22 that were indicated as being allowable and to delete subject matter objected to under 35 USC 112. Moreover, claim 23 was canceled.

Accordingly, claims 1-21 should be allowable.

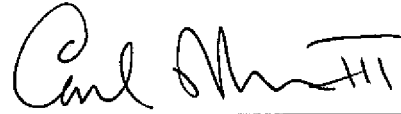
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims are in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-082.

Respectfully submitted,



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